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Lucia A Keegan 11/14/2006 10:11:41 AM From DB/Inbox: Lucia A Keegan

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SUBJECT: HAL - FRANCE'S PORTAL FOR SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

[11](#). All major French research organizations, the conference of university presidents (CPU), the conference of 'Grandes Ecoles' (France's elite universities), and the Pasteur Institute recently

signed a Joint Draft Agreement defining a coordinated approach, at the national level, for open-access self-archiving of French research output. The French network of open-access archives is known as Hyper Article on Line or, simply, HAL. Initially created by the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in 2000, and developed by the Center for Direct Scientific Communication (CCSD), it will ensure direct scientific communication between academics, and long term preservation of deposited documents.

[12](#). The HAL project is in line with the arXive site created in 1991 by Paul Ginsparg, an e-print service in the fields of physics, mathematics, non-linear science, computer science, and quantitative biology, owned, operated and funded by Cornell University and partly funded by the National Science Foundation. HAL, on the other hand, is now open to all scientific disciplines without restriction. Approximately 1200 documents are reportedly archived every month, which represents roughly 15 percent of French scientific publication output.

Technically superior to arXive?

[13](#). According to HAL's creator, CCSD Director Franck Laloe, HAL provides an extensive set of tools and services beneficial to French researchers, and "technically superior to arXive," e.g.:

- Automatic document submission with link to an international open archive that increases visibility and impact;
- Simplified submission process for scientists (a single submission can cover all the researcher's work, evaluation procedures, activity reports, and replies to requests for quotations);
- Advanced search engine, classification and searches using multiple criteria;
- Automatic online extraction of all works by author, lab, or organization, with possible links to the organization's local web site;
- Creation of "collections" via buffers for authentication of a lab's publications, the articles in a journal, etc.;
- Alert and watchdog system that can be customized with user-defined profiles;
- Hal is designed to facilitate the creation of configurable interfaces for organizations to create their own environments.

¶4. The joint draft agreement is considered an important advance in the implementation of French national policy in support of open access institutional archives. According to the French CNRS Director of Scientific Communication, "the single archive will significantly improve the visibility, dissemination, and the international impact of French scientific research, as data will be indexed by major research engines, such as Google." Furthermore, HAL communicates with other major international archive systems and includes a protocol of agreement about metadata to enrich the articles.

Benefits and risks?

¶5. According to media, some French scientists do not favor HAL out of concern that some scientists might release on the network data without peer review. HAL's organizers, on the other hand, argue that articles consulted by other scientists, will receive critical review and potential errors will be quickly notified. Furthermore, posting an article on the site does not prevent its submission for publication to scientific journals with peer review. HAL's promoters now hope that other countries, notably within the EU, will join the project, giving France a leading role in a large system of international direct scientific communication.

STAPLETON